



# NEWS RELEASE

Contact

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$48,000 GRANT TO THE MACON COUNTY SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR NEW BOX TRUCK**

In a Certificate of Recognition ceremony on November 18, 2010, Steven Gerrish, Area Specialist for USDA Rural Development announced the award of \$48,000 to the Macon County Sheltered Workshop, Inc. Funds were used to purchase a new box truck that is being utilized in the Workshop's recycling program. The assistance consisted of a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) of \$48,000 for the new box truck. Additionally, the Macon County Sheltered Workshop provided \$850 towards the box truck purchase.

"I'm pleased to hear that with the help of USDA competitive grant funds, the employees at the Macon County Sheltered Workshop will have the necessary equipment to continue to operate the communities' recycling program," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "Ensuring that Macon County continues to administer this program is vital to the community and to the opportunity for employment for many of the area's special needs people."

"For many years, the Sheltered Workshop of Macon County, known as Macon Diversified Industries has provided the services of disabled employment, with a primary focus on improving environmental issues by operating a recycle collection center," stated Allen Wyatt of the Macon County Commission. "The recycle center being located in Macon is important to this community, and our surrounding areas, because for most, it is the only recycle center available for a radius of thirty miles from Macon. With grant funding from the federal government, like the USDA Rural Development, Macon County residents and businesses can continue to do what is needed to protect the environment, and in turn help to provide jobs for the disabled workforce."

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for the funding of a new box truck that will be utilized in the recycling programs administered by the workshop," said Missouri State Director Janie Dunning. "This project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for these kinds of projects."

Anyone seeking more information about the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Moberly Office at 2995 County Road 1325, Moberly, MO 65270 or by calling (660) 263-7400 - ext 4.

**"Committed to the future of rural communities."**

**"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."**

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